

Puget Sound Science Panel Operating Procedures

Review Procedures.

The Puget Sound Science Panel consists of nine individual scientists chosen for their expertise and experience. This is not a representative body, and Panel members are not acting on behalf of their employers, agencies, or any other organization.

The legislative language creating the Science Panel requires that the Panel interact with the Puget Sound Partnership, their affiliates, and other interested parties in a number of ways. The purpose of this document is to define these various roles of the Panel as a body. Individual Panel members, when not representing the Panel, may participate in Partnership activities within the bounds of the Science Panel Conflict of Interest statement.

The Panel plays several ‘nested’ roles in the Partnership, including (1) consultation during day-to-day activities of Partnership staff and affiliates, (2) providing oversight of and advice about ‘in progress’ activities and draft products, and (3) facilitating scientific peer review of draft final Partnership products. The Science Panel is committed to transparency and integrity in its activities, and will conduct reviews openly. Consultation with Partnership staff and affiliates is likely frequent and often informal. It is not practical to conduct these numerous consultations during open meetings. However, the products resulting from these consultations will be discussed and reviewed in public.

Due to the close interactions between the Science Panel and PSP staff and affiliates, scientific peer review of draft final products will be conducted by separate panels comprised of experts from outside the Puget Sound region appointed by the Leadership Council. The Science Panel will facilitate such reviews by nominating potential peer review panel members and suggesting the scope of individual reviews.

For clarity, the Science Panel uses the following definitions:

1. Consultation. Technical interactions between the Science Panel, subgroups, and/or individual members with PSP staff, the Leadership Council, and PSP affiliates. The purpose of consultation is to allow access to the expertise and experience of the Science Panel in a timely manner.
2. Oversight and Advice. The Science Panel will evaluate ‘in progress’ activities and draft products (or portions of products) created by PSP staff and affiliates. The purpose of Oversight and Advice is to provide guidance as products are conceived, developed, and produced, allowing for mid-course corrections and focusing. Whenever possible, Oversight and Advice activities will occur in open meetings.
3. Peer Review. Peer review is a formal review of draft final written products provided to a panel of experts. It represents the final technical review of PSP products. Depending on the product under review, the Science Panel may conduct the peer review or may recommend that the Leadership Council convene an independent peer review panel. Depending on the circumstances, individual Science Panel members may be asked to serve on such panels.